



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
IRON OVERLOAD AWARENESS WEEK
SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2003

WHEREAS, undetected and untreated excess iron levels in the body afflict injury to a variety of body organs and may be fatal; and

WHEREAS, excess iron levels lower the effectiveness of the immune system; and

WHEREAS, excess iron stored in the brain has been found to exacerbate the severity of a number of diseases, including Alzheimers, Lou Gehrigs and Parkinsons; and

WHEREAS, one North Dakota resident in 200 is estimated to carry the double genes that cause an accumulation of excessive iron stores, resulting in disease of the liver, heart, pancreas and joints with ultimate fatality if untreated; and

WHEREAS, our state's carrier rate of the single gene expression for the hemochromatosis gene is estimated to be 26 in 200; and

WHEREAS, many doctors and citizens are not aware of the high incidence or the effects of iron overload diseases; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 21-27, 2003, as **IRON OVERLOAD AWARENESS WEEK** for the state of North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State